

Traditional Rafting - Pioneering Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Traditional Rafting - Pioneering Blair Atholl Scout Jamborette 2026, River Tilt from Old Blair Exit by caravan park steps Saturday 18th July - Saturday 1st August.	Date of risk assessment	31/05/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Andrew G Norrie
		Date of next review	31/05/2028		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Raft Build - Pioneering: Bump to heads	All Participants Activity Staff	Safety briefing to participants - advising nothing to be carried above shoulder height and to be aware of surroundings when carrying things. Monitored by leaders and non compliance to be called out & addressed	
Raft Build - Pioneering: Finger nipping / splinters	All Participants Activity Staff	Safety briefing to participants - advising to be careful lifting poles and be mindful of others around them.	
Raft Build - Pioneering: Rope whipping	All Participants Activity Staff	Safety briefing to participants - advising to take care and be spaced out as much as possible. Monitored by leaders and non compliance to be called out & addressed	
Moving within watercourse: Drowning	All Participants Activity Staff	PPE to be worn by all activity staff and participants (helmet, Buoyancy aid). Participants PPE will be checked for fit by Activity Staff prior to entering water. Buoyancy aids to be float tested at start of camp prior to activities commencing- all PFDs that fail test to be quarantined from use by Activity Staff. Party to be kept in one group for vision by all Activity Staff. Rescue equipment to be carried by the Activity Staff. No more than 12 participants per group. Activity staff to check the participants swimming confidence and make appropriate adjustments to prevent drowning or near misses. Weak swimmers should be distinguishable from the other participants by use of helmet markers e.g. coloured duct tape PPE equipment will be given a visual inspection at the start of camp and after each session by Activity Staff - where defects such as cracks, tears, missing buckles are present then these items are to be removed from use and quarantined. Safety briefing to be delivered by Activity Staff before activity commences.	
Moving within watercourse: Equipment failure	All Participants Activity Staff	All PPE to be used to be inspected and tested as appropriate by suitable knowledgeable staff prior to use. Any equipment deemed unsuitable to be identified and removed from vicinity to prevent accidental use.	

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Moving within watercourse: Slips, trips and falls	All Participants Activity Staff	Safety briefing to be delivered by Activity Staff before activity commences Safe route down to water identified and movement done in a coordinated and managed way	
Moving within watercourse: Swept away	All Participants Activity Staff	Water levels to be checked prior to each activity session in conjunction with River Rescue Team who are using the same site immediately before Activity to be cancelled if water levels are at unsafe level Downstream spotters with throw lines to be utilised if the situation requires	
Moving within watercourse: Entrapment	All Participants Activity Staff	Participants are encouraged not to put feet down in the river with a strong flow, Activity Staff member always to be around & upstream of participants to identify & deal with any potential incidents. Group to be managed and kept together as appropriate.	
Moving within watercourse: Entangled with raft due to raft coming loose	All Participants Activity Staff	All rafts and lashings built to be inspected by activity staff prior to entering the water to ensure problem lashing and loose ropes are addressed so as not to present a hazard in the water. Activity staff will carry knives in order to cut a rope if necessary.	
Moving within watercourse: Pinned by raft in the water	All Participants Activity Staff	Rafts to be only used in minimal flow "Lazy River" type conditions to reduce the likelihood of strong flows taking control of the raft, in the event of Higher Flow activity will not be run and wet weather alternatives enacted.	
Moving within watercourse: Hypothermia / cold shock	All Participants Activity Staff	Time spent in water to be limited & participants monitored Participants will be encouraged to enter the water in a controlled manner rather than sudden entry into cold water. Wetsuits are not required due to limited time in water.	
Moving within watercourse: Waterborne disease - Weil's etc.	All Participants Activity Staff	All participants to be advised on potential for presence of Waterborne diseases, & encouraged to cover up recent cuts/grazes where appropriate. Shower to be advised after activity - river is not a substitute for washing/good hygiene.	
Wet weather event: change in water course levels	All Participants Activity Staff	Check weather forecast before each activity day Activity Staff to be aware of safe water level Activity Staff to be aware of established escape routes from the watercourse. Water levels to be checked prior to each activity session Activity to be cancelled if water levels are at an unsafe level	
Hot weather event: heat exhaustion	All Participants Activity Staff	Bottled water to be carried by activity staff as part of safety equipment Vision to be kept on all party members for signs of overheating & suncream advised Use of shade from trees to be maximised for all participants	
Existing environment: dislodged 'debris' by others or natural causes, falling objects	All Participants Activity Staff	Helmets to be worn in case of rocks being dislodged or branches being broken. Walk through the watercourse prior to the event to remove any possible loose overhanging branches. Safe entry to be managed to minimise participants being "above" others	
Severity of route: strain / repetition, stress / fatigue	All Participants Activity Staff	Easy access routes to and from watercourse are identified Routes to be walked by Activity Staff prior to event to ensure they are suitable	
Access to the water: slips, trips and falls	All Participants Activity Staff	Access/egress will be well marked from both entrance/exit route to the gorge Where steep ground is present, hand lines to be installed prior to event	

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		Raft to be lowered in by the team rather than carried to reduce risk of it falling onto participants Debris along access/ egress routes to be cleared prior to event	
Accessibility EMERGENCY EXIT: poor access to incident	All Participants Activity Staff	Emergency exit routes to be identified and briefed to all Activity Staff prior to event If moving casualty is deemed too dangerous/ not possible, emergency services should be contacted. Each group to have at least 1no. qualified SRT/ WRT / WWRT to be present at each activity session when in the water.	
Lymes Disease/ Tick Bites	All Participants Activity Staff	All participants to be informed about the risk of ticks and bites by subcamp staff. All participants to be encouraged to check for ticks immediately after activity when showering and should be advise to attend the medical tent to have tick removed.	
Jewellery and Piercings	All Participants Activity Staff	All jewellery to be removed prior to activity start including watches, bracelets, necklaces etc. Where possible, all piercings that are outwith the area of the body covered by clothing should be removed. Where this is not possible, piercings to be covered with duct tape. If vision allows, glasses should be removed. If this is not possible, glasses band to be worn by participants during travel of the watercourse.	

RE-ASSESS ON THE DAY WITH A 'DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT' - [Home contact to be arranged and dedicated First Aider to be present]

FIRST AID LOCATION IS: Perth Royal Infirmary ON: 01738 623311